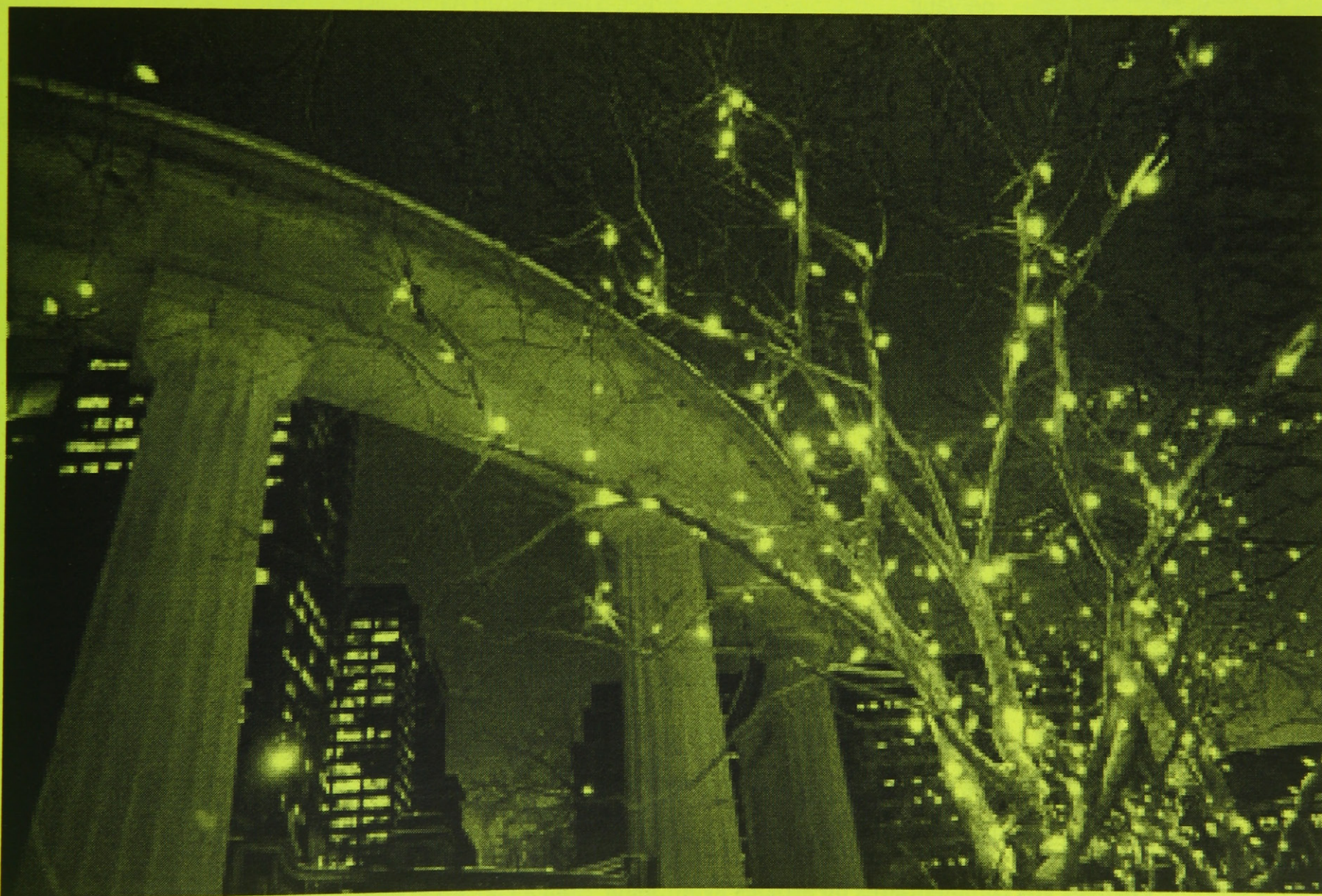


# QUID NOVI

***McGill University, Faculty of Law***  
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## QUID NOVI

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## TONS DE BLEU

par **Caroline Briand (Law IV)**  
**Co-Rédactrice en chef**

Que de beaux souvenirs de ma première année de droit me sont revenus dernièrement à la lecture d'un nouveau débat sur le nationalisme qui s'est étalé sur les pages du Quid récemment. Dans un des articles écrits dans le débat dans l'édition hiver 2004 du Quid, l'auteur avait causé bien du remous - et mêmes les foudres d'une lectrice - pour avoir sous-entendu que les gens des « régions » étaient hostiles aux « Anglo ».

C'est donc avec un sourire en coin que j'ai remarqué, dans une publicité du Constitutional Club parue dans l'édition de la semaine dernière, une utilisation flagrante de stéréotypes sur les convictions politiques des gens des régions. Dans cette publicité, le « dude » de Red Deer était un fédéraliste fermé aux revendications québécoises, et le « mec d'Alma », un nationaliste fervent.

En tant que fière représentante de la belle région du Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean, je suis habituée à me faire rabattre les oreilles avec des allusions à de tels stéréotypes de polarité politique et géographique. Qui d'ailleurs n'a jamais entendus de mes compatriotes « Bleus comme des Bleuets », ou des « Red Necks d'Alberta » ?

Il semble étrange, avec un certain recul, qu'un débat aussi essentiel et riche que celui du nationalisme et de l'appartenance ethnique du Québec et/ou des Canadiens-français au sein du Canada, doive être allumé via des préjugés et, comme on le voit souvent sur la scène politique, par provocation.

Mais assez dit. Tout débat est bon pour le lectorat ! ■

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**Envoyez vos commentaires ou articles avant jeudi 5pm à l'adresse: [quid.law@mcgill.ca](mailto:quid.law@mcgill.ca)**

Toute contribution doit indiquer l'auteur et son origine et n'est publiée qu'à la discrétion du comité de rédaction, qui basera sa décision sur la politique de rédaction telle que décrite à l'adresse:  
<http://www.law.mcgill.ca/quid/epolicy/html>.

Contributions should preferably be submitted as a .doc attachment.



## La recette du succès II

par Caroline Briand (Law IV)

À quelques jours du début de la période d'examens, je ne m'aventurerai pas à prodiguer des conseils d'études à gauche et à droite. À défaut de « food for thought », voici donc une méthode plus traditionnelle de se soutenir pendant une soirée d'étude.

### Pain au fromage

#### *Ingrédients :*

- 2 tasses de farine tout usage
- 1 c. à thé de sel d'ail
- 1/2 c. à thé de sucre
- 2 c. à table d'oignons séchés
- 4 c. à table de poudre à pâte
- 2 tasses de cheddar fort, râpé
- 2 c. à table de parmesan
- 1 piment jalapeno, haché, avec les graines
- 1 tasse de lait
- 1 œuf
- 1 c. à table de beurre fondu

Préchauffer le four à 350 F.

Graisser légèrement un moule à pain.

Mélanger tous les ingrédients secs, les fromages et le piment et ses graines.

Dans un bol à part, battre à la fourchette les ingrédients humides.

Ajouter le mélange liquide au mélange sec, tout à la fois. Bien incorporer à la spatule.

Verser la pâte dans le moule et cuire au centre du four pendant 40 minutes, ou jusqu'à ce qu'un couteau inséré au milieu du pain en ressorte propre.

Ce pain se mange bien seul, avec une bonne soupe, ou encore en rôties. ■

## The Sunshine Article

by Alison Glaser (Law II)

Anyone who has ever taken an intro psych course will have heard of B.F. Skinner. He did the experiments on reinforcement with rats and pigeons. Basically, what he found was that rats or pigeons who hit a tab would continue to push the tab (over and over and over again) if the tab-pushing was followed by the appearance of food. What this illustrated was that rats and pigeons respond well to rewards, otherwise known as positive reinforcement. This applies to humans too. So, for example, when I am studying I reward myself for accomplishing tasks. Thus, if I get through a section in my summary, I will eat some candy, or lunch, or take a shower, or watch an episode of Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Now within the faculty there are many opportunities for rewards, such as for participation in extra-curricular activities, high academic achievement, going into the notarial profession, etc. But, really, I feel like there needs to be some more widely-available rewards, such as the following:

through it all. So if you manage to do all the readings for one course, you will get this prize.

**The Coffee-House attendance prize:** awarded to students (sorry LSA do not count) that have attended every single coffee house, since that means he or she has taken the life-balancing advice in this column to heart!

**The answering questions in class prize:** this award goes to the student who is incredibly shy about talking in class and finally works up the nerve to make a comment.

**The data back-up prize:** this award is given to the student who meticulously backs up his or her data from his or her computer, thereby never having to stress about loss/theft problems.

**The getting out of the library award:** this is awarded to the student who normally lives in the library and decides to take a night off.

**The getting out of bed award:** this is awarded if you manage to get out of bed and make it to your first class. The earlier your class is, the further away you live, and the monotony level of your class all affect the awarding of this prize.

**The tackiest law-related joke award:** this goes to the student who makes the most people groan from their bad legal pun.

**The finishing your reading prize:** we all know that there is a lot of reading in this program and it is virtually impossible to get

Anyway, everyone, this is the last Sunshine Article of 2006. Hope it has provided some amusement. Good luck everyone on your exams (you will be fine) and have a wonderful, safe, exciting Christmas! ■



# Doctoring the System: Quebec Specialists Bullied

by Jeffrey Derman (Law IV)

On June 12 of this year Bill 37: "An Act respecting the provision of health services by medical specialists" was introduced to the National Assembly. It was passed in principle the same day, and the next day it was passed and received royal assent.

The purpose of the bill purports to "ensure continued provision of professional services by medical specialists and to improve the accessibility and the quality of health services."

However, the contents of the bill have little or nothing to do with improving the quality or accessibility of health services, and everything to do with forcing Quebec specialists to accept the "deal" imposed upon them which will pay them the lowest rates in the country.

Under the imposed contract, Quebec's medical specialists receive a 2% wage increase in each of 4 years, an "increase" that falls below inflation. The average gross annual income for a specialist in Quebec is \$233 000. This average is \$110 000 less than the average income for specialists across Canada.

And what if the specialists do not like the "deal"? They can, presumably, grumble in the quiet of their own homes. But they must be careful that no one overhears their complaints and takes it in such a way that may be construed to, "help or, by encouragement, advice, consent, authorization or order, induce a medical specialist [...] or any

other person to contravene any provision of this division." (s.9)

And what does "contravention of the division" include? Section 5 explains that, "No medical specialist may participate in concerted action to stop, reduce, slow down or modify his or her professional activity or to become a professional who has withdrawn or a non-participating professional within the meaning of the Health Insurance Act." (emphasis added)

In effect, a health specialist cannot, in any way change the way they work. They cannot even quit their job unless they "prove" that their notice of withdrawal "was not sent as part of a concerted action." (s.5(3)). How unfortunate for married specialists who happen to want to move somewhere else. Perhaps they will have to "randomly" leave the province at an undesignated time, without the knowledge of their spouse, lest their departure be construed as "concerted action."

The Federation of Medical Specialists of Quebec's legal expert, Sylvain Bellevance, interprets the Act as prohibiting anything from modifying work practices to quitting or accepting a position in another province.

In fact, I must be careful as I write this. According to section 24 (1) "any person" who is found guilty of encouraging medical specialists to withdraw, quit, leave the province, or in any way slow down or "modify" their prac-

tice, is guilty of an offence punishable by a \$100-\$500 fine. So, for the record, I do not encourage any medical specialist or anyone else to contravene any portion of the Act, particularly sections, 5, and 6 to 9.

If it is a medical specialist who contravenes the Act in this way they are liable to be fined between \$1,000 and \$5,000. If the person is a representative of an association the fines increase to between \$7,000 and \$35,000 and if the "guilty" party is the Federation of Medical Specialists of Quebec, or any other "association" representing specialists, then the fine jumps to between \$25,000 and \$125,000.

To be fair, I can sympathize with at least one of the goals of this Act: the provision of health services should not become a bargaining chip in brokering a new deal with the government. At least it is unfair to hold patients "hostage" just to get more money.

However, the net effect of the Government's "strategy" will be counterproductive and probably be more deleterious to patients' well-being than anything. By dealing belligerently with doctors and ruining their incentive to practice here the Government is stacking the deck in favour of a continued doctor shortage.

One wonders if there isn't some sort of death wish on the part of the Quebec Government to sink health care

in Quebec just to pry open the door to a private system. I would be curious to know who in the province stands to profit by a switch to a private system. And if I am a real cynic, I might suppose that those same people have "influence" in the drafting of legislation such as Bill-37.

In August, a survey by Leger Marketing for the Quebec Medical Association showed that 23% of physician respondents are considering leaving the province in the next 5 years. That figure climbed to 29% among medical specialists, and 39% among young doctors who have been practicing 10 years or less.

Practically all (94%) of the doctors surveyed say Bill 37 is fully or partly responsible for hurting morale and motivating them to look elsewhere for work.

(It does not assuage my cynical mind to read in today's newspapers that Health Minister Couillard is currently under investigation by Quebec's chief electoral officer for allegations of improper fundraising).

There is already a serious shortage of doctors in Quebec, both general practitioners and specialists. It is hard to imagine that imposing the nation's lowest salaries on our doctors, and then threatening them with civil suits (s.20) or fines (s.24) is the best way to attract and retain doctors in Quebec. ■



# L'opportunisme de Stephen Harper

par Olivier Gadoua (Law II)

**M**ercredi dernier, Stephen Harper a surpris la majorité des observateurs avec sa sortie haute en couleur concernant le statut du Québec. Il a avoué que le *« Québec constituait une nation au sein d'un Canada uni »*. Premièrement, sa très touchante et émouvante intervention m'a presque convaincu qu'il était de bonne foi dans cette histoire. Ensuite, pour quelques raisons que j'entends discuter brièvement ici, je me suis rapidement remis de mes émotions et ma fébrilité pour retomber dans cette espèce de cynisme que j'éprouve envers le gouvernement fédéral.

Pourquoi Harper a-t-il prononcé ces paroles? Premièrement, il tend évidemment plus ou moins habilement un piège au Bloc Québécois qui planifiait déposer une motion similaire

dans les prochains jours. Deuxièmement, il cherche à semer la zizanie au sein du Parti Libéral qui est en plein sprint final de leur course au leadership, et qui est déjà aux prises avec l'épineuse question de la nation québécoise. Enfin, comme il l'a déjà fait par le passé, Stephen Harper tente de tendre une main au Québec en nous reconnaissant comme nation, sachant que des gains au Québec sont essentiels s'il entend se faire réélire dans les prochains mois.

Toutefois, le passé rapproché nous montre que Harper a cette tendance à tendre la main au Québec avec un sourire, pour la retirer ensuite furtivement dans des circonstances nébuleuses. Harper a réussi à faire élire une poignée de ses députés au Québec principalement en nous martelant les tympans avec la représentation du

Québec à l'UNESCO et la fin du déséquilibre fiscal. Le Québec se retrouve finalement avec simplement *« une voix au sein de la délégation canadienne »* (il n'aurait pas dû se montrer si généreux!), alors que la conférence sur le déséquilibre fiscal semble avoir été remise aux calendes grecques. Compte tenu de ces promesses non tenues, je ne vois pas pourquoi je devrais le prendre au sérieux quand il parle de nation québécoise. Des élections fédérales se dessinent à l'horizon, et je vois là une occasion rêvée pour qu'il nous dise qu'il n'a malheureusement pas eu l'opportunité de transposer cette affirmation en résultats concrets pour le Québec.

En mon sens, la série de gouvernements fédéraux d'après le référendum de 1995 joue à un jeu dangereux en essayant de nous amadouer avec des peanuts et des promesses douteuses. Tout gouvernement fédéral le moins conscient aurait pris 1995 comme un

sérieux cri d'alarme: les québécoises et québécois ont voté à 49.4% pour l'indépendance, il s'en est fallu de peu pour que le Canada perde sa plus belle province. Un gouvernement fédéral aurait pu se demander: n'y aurait-il pas par hasard un problème avec le fédéralisme tel qu'il est **p r é s e n t e m e n t**? Apparemment non. Quels gestes ont été posés par le gouvernement fédéral depuis pour tenter de parer à cette situation, outre le scandaleux programme des commandites et les promesses non tenues par Harper? L'inaction et l'arrogance des gouvernements fédéraux d'après 1995 pourraient bien finir par tourner contre eux. Parfois je me surprends à espérer que la naïveté et la passivité des québécoises et québécois ont des limites, et que celles-ci seront bientôt atteintes. ■





# Valedictorian Election / Élection d'un major de promotion

Les textes de présentation suivants ont été soumis par des étudiants désireux de se présenter comme major de promotion 2006-2007.

The following blurbs were submitted by students wishing to run for the position of 2006-2007 Valedictorian.

## Kristin Grace Ali



One of the reasons I came to law school is my interest in the power of words. The frustrating debates in first year about the meaning of norms and trans-systemia were, as difficult as it is to admit, right up my alley. And while I'm not sure if we've shed much light on those questions in our three years here, I've come to realize that what I valued most in our conversations was not getting the answers but getting to know you. The best moments of law school for me have turned out to be all about the process: the discussions, the problem-solving, the good times at Coffee House, and ultimately, the friendships. Our continued willingness to engage with each other and to confront the big questions facing the law—in class and out of it, at Thomson House, even walking through the Reservoir—is what has made learning with this group so enriching. Si je suis élue, j'aimerais que le discours reflète nos expériences pendant les trois ans, trois ans et demi ou

quatre ans que chacun d'entre nous a passé ici à la faculté, ainsi que nos buts différents nonobstant notre éducation commune. J'ai l'intention d'obtenir vos impressions, vos opinions et vos histoires afin de préparer un discours qui soit le fruit d'un effort collaboratif. Ce serait pour moi un grand honneur de vous représenter à la collation des grades. ■

## Lainy Destin



You know that when I discuss and debate it's always with passion. Vous savez aussi que deux sujets me tiennent particulièrement à cœur depuis les trois dernières années soit, le développement de notre programme transsystemique ainsi que l'épanouissement de notre petite communauté de curieux (sans fautes), d'ambitieux (to a fault), de généreux (especially with summaries) et de « know-it-all! »

(du moins, ceux qui pensent vraiment l'être).

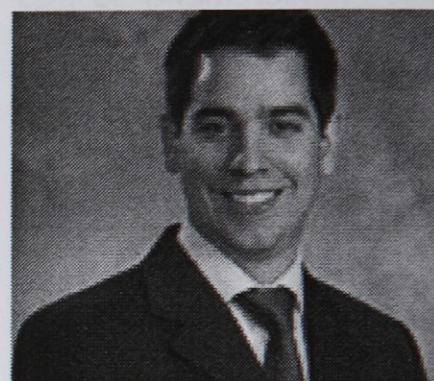
Some may know me as an "experienced" cheerleader (namely, for the McGill team at Law Games) so you can trust that I am ready to boast of our graduating class' many accomplishments and contributions to the Faculty. D'autres me connaissent peut-être en tant que celle qui aime imiter et des fois même se moquer de nos très chères/chers et illustres professeur(e)s de temps en temps. Donc si vous jugez bon de m'élire en tant que major de classe, vous pouvez compter sur moi pour vous divertir avec quelques anecdotes sur ces derniers.

While some may know my sharp-tongued readiness to tell people "where to go and how to get there" on occasion, you can be sure that I would not dream of giving you advice on where to go from here or on how to get ready for the life ahead of you—trust me I'm not sure about my own path sometimes....

En fait, je ne souhaite que d'avoir la chance d'offrir à la classe finissante- ainsi qu'à nos parent et amis- un portrait vivant de nos expériences durant ces dernières années.

P.S. Apparently I'm also known for my entertaining/eccentric outfits. Unfortunately, I'm afraid that if chosen as our valedictorian, I may not be able to fulfill any great expectations due to the obvious constraints of the requisite "cap and gown" get-up and accoutrements. Mais, on verra. ■

## Andrés Jonathan Drew



I would be honored to be your class speaker. Convocation is an extraordinary moment. It is an opportunity to look back on an intellectual and character building experience that made possible the forging of relationships of friendship and camaraderie; all of which have contributed to our personal growth (and permitted us to throw some wicked parties!).

I have been fortunate to have walked among giants. The success of my various years on the LSA (VP-External, President, 4<sup>th</sup> year Class-President) would not have been possible without the collective effort, tireless energy and talent of countless numbers of people I now call friends. Je suis fier d'avoir, avec mes pairs, joué un rôle dans l'amélioration de la vie étudiante à la faculté : en participant aux rénovations apportées au salon étudiant; en négociant le premier programme d'échange avec une université chinoise; en obtenant des locaux pour les bureaux du Groupe de travail sur les droits de l'homme, de *Innocence McGill* et de *Pro Bono*; en élargissant le réseau sans fil dans les salles de cours;



et en agissant à titre de coprésident du *Class Action Fund*.

Ces expériences, je crois, me permettront de fidèlement représenter l'ensemble des finissants, dans nos deux langues officielles. Félicitations à la promotion 2007! ■

## Naomi Kikoler

*Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places. You're off and away!*  
Dr. Seuss



As we near the end of our degrees our focus is on the future. We dream about the incredible adventures that we will have, the lives that we will lead, and the opportunities that we will have to not only enrich our own lives, but the lives of loved ones and our communities. Convocation provides us with an opportunity to reflect thoughtfully on our collective experiences at McGill and to draw attention to how our time here has empowered us.

Convocation is also a time for us to laugh, to reminisce, and to thank those who, through their support and guidance — be they friends, loved ones or professors — have helped us through our degrees. Through our classes and conversations with each other we as a graduating body have bonded, and learned not only about the law but about life, who we are as individuals,

and about friendship.

The voice of the Valedictorian should not be the voice of one person: it should be the embodiment of the diverse voices that make up McGill law. We have different backgrounds, experiences and desires. I am by no means a top student, and will likely not have a career as a legal scholar, but I am, and have throughout my degree, been deeply committed to listening to and looking for the voices of my fellow students. My promise to you is that as Valedictorian I will strive to make a place for each of your voices in the speech. I also would like to move the speech away from the traditional format where one person speaks for 8 minutes to something that is more interactive and reflective of who we are as students.

Most of all, I promise that you will think critically, laugh, smile a lot, and hopefully leave feeling empowered. I also promise that your loved ones will be included in the experience and are not left bored... my last graduation the speech was in Latin ... ouch!

It would be an honour and privilege to given the opportunity to voice to your experiences and aspirations. I wish you all the best of luck for the future and I know that you will all go far! ■

## Joshua Parr



June 1, 2007. Not so far away, when you think about it. There'll be more cameras and funny-looking square hats than

you can shake a rolled-up diploma at.

And there we'll be, gussied up for the folks, worrying about tripping over our gowns or a microphone cord when we have to cross the stage to pick up our diplomas, and chewing on our imminent catapulsion into the Profession. It'll be something.

Along the way, there'll be some speeching. We've all heard a lot of them, and so we don't usually ask why we're being made to sit through them.

From its root meaning, a valedictory is essentially a farewell. We won't be students together anymore after June 1, so we say goodbye.

I think a good goodbye is important. I'd be honoured if you let me be the one to give it. ■

## Hugh Sandler



If elected Valedictorian I will do my best to give a somewhat humorous, definitely appropriate, and of course bilingual speech at Convocation. (And yes, it will be polyjural too).

Below I have listed some of the things that I have done in my 3+ years at the Faculty, but I do not think that on their own they should earn me the privilege to address the 2007 Class at Convocation. So I would like to add that in addition to what is listed below, I have attended as many coffee houses as I possibly could (even that one in 2005 hosted by the Canadian Bar Association, where no drinks

were served for the first hour!) and I know the title of each of the 10 books of the Civil Code of Québec (off-by-heart and in sequence).

J'ai passé les trois dernières années à être fidèle à la Faculté de droit de McGill d'un point de vue académique ainsi que d'un point de vue social. J'ai participé à un grand nombre d'activité académique tels que la compétition de plaidoirie, la position de TL dans la classe de Legal Meth, un stage dans le domaine du droit de la personne, et le programme de clerkship.

Je me suis également dédié à contribuer à la Faculté. Pendant mes deux premières années, j'ai travaillé avec huit autres étudiants pour fonder Innocence McGill, une organisation dont je fais toujours parti. Je suis fier de pouvoir dire, qu'en résultat du travail d'un petit groupe d'étudiants, Innocence McGill est devenu une organisation de bénévolat bien reconnue qui a aidé à renforcer les liens entre la Faculté et les communautés juridique et *pro bono* de Montréal. En troisième année, j'ai participé au développement et l'administration d'un « Student-Initiated Seminar », Art of a Deal. Le cours était innovateur dans plusieurs domaines, incluant étant lié à la faculté du MBA, et requérant que les étudiants fassent des présentations à des étudiants de premier cycle de McGill.

I hope the above is persuasive, but I would like to add that, in case it is not obvious, I care deeply about the Faculty—the people, curriculum, and programmes offered—and would very much enjoy the opportunity to be the 2007 Valedictorian. ■



# Réponse

by Léonid Sirota (Law II)

**J**e voudrais, tout d'abord, remercier Olivier Gadoua pour sa réponse, parue dans le Quid de la semaine dernière, à mon article sur le nationalisme. Dans cette réponse, Olivier fait à mon articles certains reproches qui me laissent, je dois l'admettre, perplexe. Plus que d'un simple désaccord sur les idées, ils semblent témoigner d'une différence fondamentale de notre mode de pensée politique, qui résulte, j'ai bien peur, en une incompréhension mutuelle profonde. Olivier ne prétend pas que mon argumentation est défectueuse, ou que les faits qui l'appuient sont mal présentés. Ce qu'il reproche à mon article, ce n'est pas un manque, mais un excès de rigueur, de logique... et d'optimisme. S'il trouvait des failles dans mon raisonnement, j'aurais essayé de montrer que celui-ci était, en fait, satisfaisant, le préciser ou le rectifier; mais devant le genre de critique qu'Olivier formule à l'endroit de mon article, je ne peux qu'essayer d'expliquer pourquoi je choisis de raisonner ainsi.

Toutefois, avant de le faire, je reviendrai sur certaines objections plus factuelles qu'Olivier m'oppose. Tout d'abord, il semble suggérer que les réalisations de la Révolution tranquille telles que la « laïcisation du système de santé et d'éducation » et leur « démocratisation », ainsi que le « développement du réseau hydro-électrique » sont des exemples du succès du nationalisme. Pourtant, elles se sont faites, en bonne

partie au moins, avant l'émergence du nationalisme québécois, par opposition au nationalisme ethnique canadien-français qui, en remettant le pouvoir social entre les mains de l'Église, avait empêché ces progrès pendant les décennies précédentes.

Ensuite, s'opposant à l'idée selon laquelle le nationalisme est responsable de la suppression de droits et libertés individuels, Olivier soutient « qu'on ne doit pas confondre nationalisme et gouvernance », et qu'agissant au nom de la collectivité et dans le meilleur intérêt de celle-ci ... les gouvernements viennent à écorcher au passage les libertés individuelles. » Ceci lui paraît « inévitable » et il n'y voit « rien d'alarmant ». Il est vrai que des gouvernements agissent, ou ce qui me paraît plus fréquent, prétendent agir, pour la « collectivité ». Je crois pourtant que ce n'est pas le rôle d'un gouvernement. Comme Colin dans *L'écume des jours* de Boris Vian, je ne veux pas le bonheur de tous, mais le bonheur de chacun. Je crois, donc, qu'un gouvernement ne devrait pas agir pour une « collectivité » abstraite, mais pour des personnes concrètes. Et lorsqu'il le fait, il devra sans doute limiter, dans certains cas, des libertés individuelles – mais ne jamais le faire avec l'insouciance qui me semble transparente dans le texte d'Olivier.

Olivier me demande, néanmoins, de lui

« expliquer comment le nationalisme québécois, par exemple, vient à nous brimer dans l'exercice de nos libertés individuelles ». Pour me limiter à deux exemples seulement, je ne citerai que la *Loi concernant la Loi constitutionnelle de 1982* et la loi 101. La première a nié aux Québécois, pendant cinq ans, la protection des articles 2 et 7 à 15 de la *Charte canadienne des droits et libertés* dans leur application aux lois provinciales, au nom de ce qu'un René Lévesque dépit d'avoir perdu au jeu de la négociation constitutionnelle considérait comme l'intérêt national. La seconde, même après que la Cour suprême en eut invalidé les dispositions les plus attentatoires à la liberté d'expression, continue de limiter ce droit fondamental des Québécois et de nier carrément à la plupart d'eux le choix de la langue d'instruction de leurs enfants. Quels que soient les effets salutaires de la loi 101 pour l'unité canadienne, il s'agit d'une limitation sévère de notre liberté, d'autant plus que l'intérêt politique des partis lui a conféré un statut de vache sacrée.

Ayant apporté ces précisions, je reviens à ma principale difficulté avec l'article d'Olivier – notre différence d'approche au problème du nationalisme. Pour Olivier, mon analyse est « beaucoup trop rationnelle, voire mathématique », ce qui m'empêche de percevoir « la beauté » du nationalisme qui serait, essentiellement, « une affaire de sentiments ». Olivier compare même le nationalisme à l'amour. Il est vrai que j'ai une image moins romantique du nationalisme. Il s'agit, après tout, d'une idéologie politique – d'un

système d'idées motivant des actions qui auront une influence sur chacun des citoyens d'une province, d'un pays. Or, j'ai la ferme conviction qu'un système d'idées doit être analysé rationnellement, puisqu'il se construit d'opinions plutôt que de sentiments. Normalement, un sentiment comme l'amour n'affecte directement que quelques personnes, au plus. Une idéologie peut servir à exterminer des milliers, des millions même. Croire qu'un sentiment qu'on éprouve puisse justifier la négation des droits de milliers de personnes, comme le duc de Buckingham dans *Les trois mousquetaires*, c'est faire preuve d'un orgueil qui me paraît choquant et tout à fait injustifiable. Que l'on fonde un choix politique entre deux options qui se justifie à peu près aussi bien l'une que l'autre sur une préférence sentimentale, soit. Mais qu'on abandonne purement et simplement la rationalité et le raisonnement dans ses décisions politiques, comme Olivier semble nous proposer de faire en affirmant qu'il ne faut pas justifier le nationalisme puisque celui-ci ne serait pas du domaine du justifiable, cela me paraît dangereux et inacceptable. La renonciation à la rationalité m'est, en fait, si m p l e m e n t incompréhensible.

En plus de la rationalité, Olivier s'attaque également à mon optimisme, excessif selon lui. Pour lui, le nationalisme est la conséquence directe du sentiment « naturel pour l'homme de chercher à s'identifier à un groupe plus large pour se définir. » Le nationalisme, dit Olivier, « existe depuis des



millénaires », et on ne peut pas « s'en débarrasser ainsi ». Donc, même si ce choix est irrationnel, nous devrions nous abandonner au nationalisme. *If you can't beat them, join them.* Mon appel au combat est, pour Olivier, un cri de désespoir.

Avec égards pour son opinion, je crois qu'Olivier se trompe. Pour commencer, le nationalisme n'existe pas depuis des millénaires, mais depuis, au plus tôt, la Révolution française, et n'est devenu véritablement populaire – dans sa forme

ethnique, faut-il le rappeler – qu'au 19<sup>e</sup> siècle. Le besoin d'identification de groupe était auparavant, et est toujours, en bonne partie, assouvi par d'autres liens – à la famille, à un clan, à l'ensemble de nos concitoyens ou même l'humanité. Quant au nationalisme, quand bien même il serait l'émotion ancienne qu'Olivier le croit être, ce n'est guère une raison pour croire que nous ne pourrions nous en débarrasser. L'intolérance religieuse, le racisme, le sexisme ont tous une histoire

bien plus ancienne que le nationalisme. Pourtant, sans prétendre que nous avons réussi à nous en débarrasser entièrement – nous en sommes, hélas, bien loin – je crois que les sociétés occidentales ont accompli d'indéniables progrès en relativement peu de temps, comparativement à l'âge de ces préjugés, dans nos tentatives de nous en débarrasser. Si le nationalisme n'est qu'une émotion, alors c'est un préjugé de la même sorte, et nous pouvons également le combattre. Vu les effets

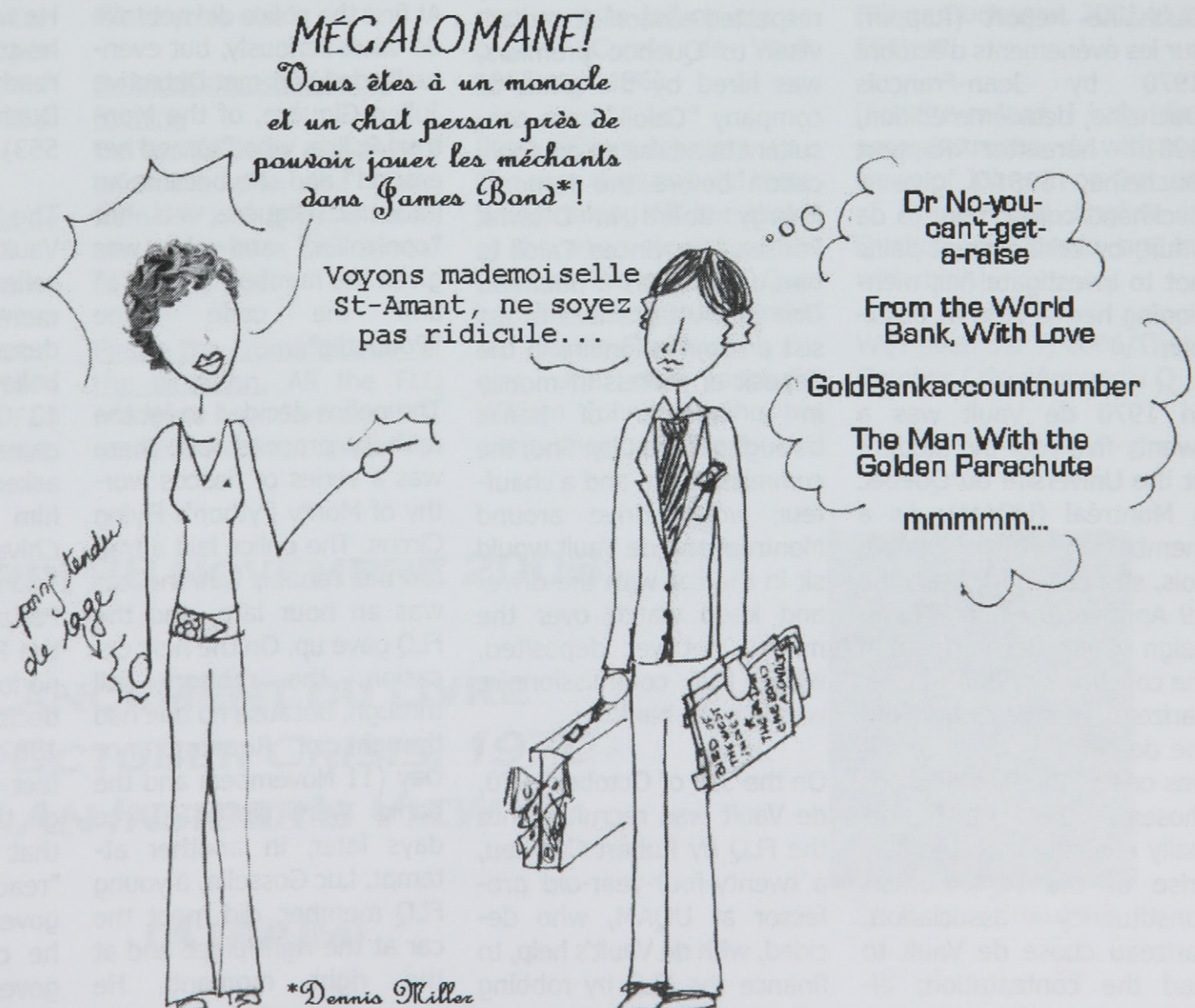
désastreux du nationalisme, je suis convaincu que nous devons le faire.

En somme, je crois que nous ne devrions succomber ni à l'irrationalité, ni au pessimisme, qui me paraissent être simplement des formes d'abandon d'un combat contre l'ignorance et les préjugés que nous devons mener pour que notre pensée et, éventuellement, notre action politique aient un sens réel et positif. ■

## «America, Corporate America»

(c'est quand même plus international que «Casino Banque royale du Canada»)

by Laurence Bich-Carrière (LAW III)





# The Saga of Carole De Vault

by Professor William Tetley

The saga of Carole de Vault is a striking example of "truth being stranger than fiction". Her text "The Informer: Confessions of an Ex-Terrorist" by Carole de Vault with William Johnson, 1982 Fleet Books, Toronto (hereafter "Carole de Vault, 1982") should be required reading by anyone commenting on the October Crisis, while Pierre Duchesne's biography of Parizeau, "Jacques Parizeau, tome 1, La Croisée," Québec Amérique, Montreal, 2001 (hereafter "Pierre Duchesne, 2001") casts even more light on de Vault and confirms much of her narrative. The Keable Report and the Duchaine Report (Rapport sur les événements d'octobre 1970 by Jean-François Duchaine, deuxième édition, 1981 - hereafter "Rapport Duchaine, 1981") give a backhand compliment to de Vault, by taking great pains not to investigate her, mentioning her as little as possible.

In 1970 de Vault was a twenty-five-year-old student at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM). As a member of the Parti Québécois, she had worked on the 29 April 1970 election campaign of Jacques Parizeau in the constituency of Ahuntsic. Parizeau was defeated, but the defeat was close and it was one of the five elections chosen by the PQ to be formally contested. To the surprise of the PQ Ahuntsic constituency association, Parizeau chose de Vault to lead the contestation; al-

though a "star", she had not been one of his chief organizers. De Vault was infatuated with the debonair, intelligent, erudite Parizeau and soon thereafter they became intimate until the end of December 1970. Years later Parizeau said the affair was not as long and intense as de Vault claimed (Pierre Duchesne, 2001 at pp. 546-548). De Vault, in her book in 1980, said that "...he was the first real love of my life. I was still very naïve". She added that for Parizeau it was "...probably part of a passing adventure..." (Carole de Vault, 1982 at p. 86)

In July 1970, Parizeau, a very respected economist and adviser to Quebec premiers, was hired by the giant oil company "Caloil" as a consultant to advise on an application before the National Energy Board in Ottawa. Parizeau convinced Caloil to hire de Vault as a publicist. One of her tasks was to assist a commissionaire in the deposit of parcels of money in a number of banks throughout the City. She, the commissionaire and a chauffeur would drive around Montreal and de Vault would sit in the car with the driver and keep watch over the money not yet deposited, while the commissionaire was in each bank.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 1970, de Vault was recruited into the FLQ by Robert Comeau, a twenty-four-year-old professor at UQAM, who decided, with de Vault's help, to finance the FLQ by robbing

the Caloil car during its rounds. De Vault soon realized that a robbery could implicate Parizeau. Very anxious therefore to avoid a hold-up, she tried to discuss the problem with Parizeau, but could not reach him and therefore went to his wife, Alice, and told her the story. Mrs. Parizeau was also concerned that the theft could lead to her husband and advised Carole to go to the police. Early the next morning, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November, de Vault went to the Montreal police and told them of the coming robbery.

When she returned to Caloil around 11:30 am, she met Parizeau, whose wife had told him everything. He asked what she had done and agreed with her decision to go to the police (Pierre Duchesne, 2001 at p. 551).

At first the police did not take de Vault seriously, but eventually de Vault met Detective Julien Giguère, of the Montreal Police, who "turned her around" and she became an informer. Giguère was her "controller" and she was given the number "945-171" and the code name "Poupette".

The police decided to let the robbery proceed, but there was a series of fiascos worthy of Monty Python's Flying Circus. The police laid a trap for the robber, but the car was an hour late, and the FLQ gave up. On the next occasion, the robbery fell through, because no one had thought of Remembrance Day (11 November) and the banks were closed. Three days later, in another attempt, Luc Gosselin, a young FLQ member, did meet the car at the right place and at the right moment. He

opened the car door, but grabbed de Vault's handbag, instead of the briefcase. Whilst fleeing, Gosselin was, of course, captured by the police, who had surrounded the area. Gosselin was bundled off to police headquarters, where what happened to him is not clear (Rapport Duchaine, 1981, at pp. 162-163).

Unknown to de Vault or Parizeau, the police had bugged her apartment and her telephone in the middle of November 1970 and recorded Parizeau on tape when he phoned or visited until the end of December 1970. "According to Detective Giguère, 'that would have been sufficient to arrest him (Parizeau) during the period of the application of the War Measures Act, but as he was not the type of person who was going to act in any way, it was not worthwhile. He was of no use to us. What he could have told us, we already knew'" (Pierre Duchesne, 2001 at pp. 552-553).

The account of Carole de Vault on Parizeau and the so-called "provisional government" is very revealing. She describes how, on what she believes was the evening of 13 October 1970, Parizeau came to her apartment and asked for a drink and she got him his favourite scotch, Chivas Regal.

Parizeau: "You know, Carole, the Bourassa government is no longer capable of making decisions" (Carole de Vault, 1982 at p. 94) She sat at his feet on the floor and he sat on the couch and told her that some persons were "ready to take over from the government, to set up what he called either a parallel government or a provisional



government. You know, your apartment will be historic, because you will be able to say that the parallel government began here." (ibid.).

Thereafter, he made telephone calls to Claude Ryan of Le Devoir and Marcel Pepin (president of the CNTU) without success. He left an hour later at 8:00 p.m.

Duchesne noted that after the robbery episode, Parizeau started to have doubts about de Vault, although he did not believe she worked for the police. He broke off the relationship at the end of December 1970, but did not discover that she had continued to be an informer until 1980, when she testified publicly before the Keable Commission (Pierre Duchesne, 2001 at p. 552). According to Duchesne, "Jacques Parizeau described those few months with Carole de Vault as 'the most perilous period in his life'" (Pierre Duchesne, 2001 at p. 546).

#### The importance of Carole de Vault's testimony

De Vault continued on as an informer and FLQ member from the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 1970 to the end of 1974 when, as she put it, "the FLQ was dead" (Carole de Vault,

1982 at p. 240).

All FLQ members and sympathizers, in their writings and the Duchaîne and Keable enquiries, are very careful not to give any details of the Crisis which might lead to Parti Québécois involvement. They especially dance a tightrope in avoiding de Vault's 1970 participation, which would only lead to the PQ and to Parizeau. De Vault's book is important in any study of the FLQ, because it is so frank and tells first-hand the story of a student, of an involved Parti Québécois member, of an FLQ member, of a police informer and of the workings of the Keable Commission. No matter what she was doing from 1963 to 1980, she was extremely active, while the reports of her experiences are in a detail, frankness and intimacy, unlike anyone else's.

#### De Vault's reasons for informing

De Vault's three reasons for informing after the Crisis, from 1971 to 1974, if naïve, are informative and appear to be accurate.

Firstly the "romanticism" of the situation. All the FLQ members from January 1971 onwards were romantics with

double lives. De Vault had even more - "a double secret life". She was an FLQ member and participated in their activities such as stealing real dynamite and keeping it in her apartment. She was also a "spy". The post-1970 FLQ members were "naïve adolescents", who "...played at revolution" and she was "...playing a game too" (Carole de Vault, 1982 at p. 196).

Secondly, the pay. De Vault was paid for information, receiving \$30.00 each time she met her controller, which was about twice per week. She once received a lump sum of \$15,000.00 (Carole de Vault, 1982 at p. 196; Pierre Duchesne, 2001 at p. 552).

Thirdly, to counter terror. If "a new flare-up of terrorism" was to take place, she "...seriously wanted to counter the FLQ." She added that "No one went to jail on my account" (Carole de Vault, 1982 at p. 196).

#### Enter William Johnson

The saga does not end there. Whilst taking off her skates at the open air rink at the Château Frontenac in Quebec City, during the period of the Keable Commission Enquiry, she met journalist William Johnson, who became her confidant and

helped her to reestablish her life. "It was the beginning of a relationship that brought me back to life. He helped me to face my nightmares. He encouraged me to start writing a book about my experiences," (Carole de Vault, 1982 at p. 277).

Together they wrote "The Informer, Confessions of an Extremist", published in French in 1981 ("Toute ma vérité: Les confessions de l'agent S.A.T. 945-171") and in English in 1982. It is intriguing reading. William Johnson, incidentally, became president of Alliance Quebec in 1998 and continued on as such until 2000.

When de Vault's book was published, Jacques Parizeau was appalled. In 1999 he said "... I was taken in like an imbecile. It is clear that the police used me like a child" (Pierre Duchesne, 2001 at p. 554). ■

[For the record, I have disagreed strenuously with the views of Johnson on the use of French and English in Quebec and Canada, and he with mine].

Wt/November 7, 2006/The October Crisis Appendix Q

**MARDI 28 NOVEMBRE 2006**

## **LANCEMENT DU LIVRE THE OCTOBER CRISIS, 1970 - AN INSIDER'S VIEW**

**(ATRIUM)**



THE October Crisis, 1970  
WILLIAM TETLEY  
An Insider's View



# mercury

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# Halluci-Nation?

by Alex Herman (Law II)

I applaud Mr. Sirota's impassioned plea against the perils of nationalism. Certainly, he is right to a large extent. Nationalism, at its worst, has led to some of the darkest episodes of modern history. The facility with which members of certain societies allowed the gradual dehumanization of minority groups is a shocking and dangerous scenario - one which should be avoided at all costs.

But a flame exists within us humans - a small, indefatigable yearning to belong to something greater than ourselves. The desire can be expressed in many ways and for many reasons: the belief in an afterlife, the support of a home team or the conviction that one nation, our nation, is better than - or perhaps different from - all others. It can be fuelled by academics, demagogues and paternal figures alike. If it should grow into such a conflagration that even the individual is consumed, then the tragedy of extremism will have triumphed. But equally tragic would be for that flame to be extinguished entirely.

The great balancing act attempted - and in some cases, achieved - by modern societies is between individual and collective rights. Certainly, when the collective stamps on the rights of individuals who do not belong to the common creed, civil society has failed. During the 1930s, the Nazi Party was able to pass successive legislation that undermined the rights of Jewish citizens to participate in German society.

They did so, most deceptively, not all at once, but incrementally over a number of years, so that enough trickles made it through the levee before anyone could react to the flood. These brutal procedures must never be repeated - not simply the Wannsee Protocols of 1941, but also the "mild" laws of 1933.

A society must protect its individuals from the marching boots of the collective. This is a lesson we have learned and applied, to moderate success, throughout the world. Protecting the individual from the incursions of the majority is a necessary act of modern government. But this safe-

guard is not incompatible with allowing individuals to associate and belong to a collectivity. In fact, a collectivity is a product of numerous individual choices, voluntarily subscribing to a platform of shared ideas. To deny the existence of that collectivity would be the greatest affront to its constitutive members: an attack on the dignified individual choices they made.

These collectivities must be allowed to exist, to thrive and to grow, though only on a voluntary basis. Once the group tries to coerce others to join or force membership on uninterested parties, then society - in the form of the state - must intervene. The example of Quebec, the obvious impetus to Mr. Sirota's article, is interesting. Asking for recognition of their status as a nation, the National Assembly is speaking for its electorate as a body of representatives. In a sense, then, this nation is a voluntary one. The collective has expressed itself in the best way open to it: through the political system.

Once the nation-status is granted, it becomes the task of society to guard individuals, especially those who oppose or have no interest in joining this nation, against incursions from the majority. The situation in Quebec would be such that those who wanted to belong to this nation would be free to do so, while those who chose not to would retain their individual rights and pay no penalties for being outside the "national" collectivity. The result of this balance would be akin to an earlier phenomenon, alluded to in the opening sentences of Mr. Sirota's article: if nationalism is a form of religion, then instead of denying people the right to practice it, perhaps we need a separation of nation and state.

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Interested in debating this issue, among others? Visit the site of the Canadian Constitutional Club de la constitution canadienne at <http://cccmcgill.blogspot.com>.

**THE QUID WILL BE BACK IN JANUARY.**

**THANK YOU FOR WRITING AND GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR EXAMS!**



# Class-Action Fund 2007?

by Hans Black, Marie-Claude Marcil and Andrés Drew (2007 Class-Action-Fund co-chairs)

No, this is not the fund set up in various states and provinces to offset the transaction costs of aggrieved shareholders suing directors and officers of corporations. The Class-Action-Fund is a nobler cause—supporting transsystemia's next generation. It is an opportunity for us as graduating students to leave our mark and show our appreciation for the exceptional opportunity that we have all benefited from at the faculty.

Philanthropy, since the granting of Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning's (McGill) charter in 1821, has been a central pillar upon which this University was built. Since our tenure at the Faculty, gifts by alumni have significantly improved student life and learning, to name just a few: more than half the funding for the newly renovated student lounge was provided for by alumni (which will officially open on Wednesday at noon!, Go check it out it looks great!); in 2005 the Faculty's Young Alumni Association donated more than \$10 000 to Human Rights Internship Bursaries; in 2005 David M O'Brien (B.C.L. 65') gave \$3

million for graduate degree fellowships; in 2006 Professor Emeritus Stephen Scott (B.C.L. 66') provided a generous gift for the renovation of a seminar room in Old Chancellor Day Hall, which now bears his name.

This is the third year that the graduating class of the law faculty have sought to benefit future graduates through the Class-Action-Fund. (Past gifts have been directed towards funding the Law and Poverty class offered in the Fall of 2005 and supported the transition towards our new Career Development Office.) The idea is simple; graduating students will choose by consensus a project, to which they will each contribute according to their financial abilities. After an informal consultation process, we as the class-action-fund co-chairs have narrowed down the number of feasible projects to 3 options.

D'abord, nous vous proposons d'amasser des fonds afin de rénover la classe 202 de la Faculté; un projet tangible qui profiterait à toutes les prochaines générations. En fonction du montant recueilli, nous

pourrions rendre cette classe encore plus propice aux groupes de discussion qui s'y déroulent déjà avec de nouvelles chaises, de nouvelles tables, et peut-être même une nouvelle couche de peinture. Alors que quelques aménagements y ont déjà été faits, pourquoi pas rendre cette salle de classe encore plus agréable à l'image de la promotion 2007.

Dans un tout autre ordre d'idée, le deuxième projet que nous vous proposons serait de créer une bourse pour un étudiant dans le besoin. Cette bourse permettrait d'offrir, pendant un an, une éducation légale gratuite et par le fait même, de faciliter l'accès à la justice pour une personne ayant une situation financière plus difficile. Ce projet nous permettrait en quelque sorte de donner au suivant; nous pourrions aider un étudiant à poursuivre des études universitaires et ainsi, participer à son rôle dans notre société.

Finally, we could use our Class-Action-Fund to create a new course at the faculty for the next academic year. This could offer upper-year students a class in a subject

currently not available. Some of you have suggested a tutorial on Corporate Social Responsibility taught by a Montreal practitioner, although any alternatives that you might have are possible.

We encourage you to email us your suggestions and comments as well as your preference for which gift you support at [classaction-fund2007@hotmail.com](mailto:classaction-fund2007@hotmail.com). We hope to announce your choice in late January.

Ultimately participation will determine the success of whatever project we choose. Gifts are tax-deductible and most American and some Canadian law firms match university gifts. We are asking all graduating students to give \$100 to support the Class-Action-Fund, less than half of what an articling student will make per day in Montreal. But it is the act that counts and not the amount. Participation is key so we would like to ask everyone to give what they can.

The success of the project depends on your generosity, so please help! Félicitations à la promotion 2007!■

**VOUS AVEZ DES SUGGESTIONS POUR LE CLASS ACTION COMMITTEE (PROMOTION 2007)?**

**EXPRIMEZ-LES DANS LE QUID!**



# Law Limericks XI and XII

by David Rettie (TR-3) and Francie Gow (lowly TR-2, Law III)

When I first got accepted to the McGill law faculty, one of my revisers at the Translation Bureau (hence the TR-3) decided I was getting a little too ambitious and sent me the following limerick to put me in my place:

An uppity linguist named Gow  
Is plotting (we're not quite sure how)  
To out-earn her betters  
This lady of letters  
Should give up the fight here and now

Naturally, I couldn't let him get away with that, so I sent the following reply:

My plot is so far going well  
I'll discover my niche and excel  
Letters indeed  
One day mine will read  
BA MA LLB BCL

(Insert diabolical laugh.)

This last issue of the Quid would be a good time to acknowledge the role that both of my revisers, Lee Zimmerman and David Rettie, played in turning me into the limerick monster I am today. Sniff. Thanks boys. I couldn't have done it without you. ■

## A Response to Professor Tetley

by Andrew Mason (Law III)

Professor Tetley began his article "History Repeats Itself - Broker Bailouts and Income Trusts" with a quaint personal anecdote related to income trusts and ended it with a sweeping condemnation of the current federal government's agenda.

In a world where everyone is a critic it is a wonder that anyone dares to be an artist - much less seek the role of national conductor. Some, once known for their strong values and ideals, attempt to fulfil the role only to slide into governance by focus group; e.g. Martin and Ig-

natieff (not even in office and already weak-kneed): once the great hopes of their party, now known as consummate ditherers. By contrast, Stephen Harper began his term in office with the contempt of the self-appointed "political class" in Ottawa and Toronto, the Ivory Tower watchdogs and the majority of the media (sometimes the CBC and the Globe and Mail have to be read to be believed: cigarette companies put out less spin). Harper was Bush Lite, a callous cold-hearted man who even shakes hands with his young children (to allow

them to avoid the embarrassment of an on-camera hug, but why trifle with such factual details?). Despite a chorus of disdain from the pundits, Harper has acted with rigour and decisiveness. Love him or hate him, Harper leads. The ship of state is always most comfortable in the hands of a helmsman who knows where they are going.

Let us remember that in less than 300 days in office, and with a minority government, Harper has accomplished at least 4 of 5 of his primary electoral promises. This is all the more remark-

able when one realises that between 1993-2006 the Liberal party failed to fulfil their most important promises, key among which was the elimination of the GST (now reduced by, surprise!, Harper). Nonetheless, Prof Tetley takes the beleaguered minority government to task for Kyoto, the Clean Air bill, gun control and Afghanistan.

### Kyoto

On this subject popular concern is understandable. Liberal objections, however, are truly laughable. In the space of a week Liberal leader Bill Graham said



## Quid Novi

Harper's lack of participation in an EU climate change conference was a "disgrace" and then labelled Rona Ambrose's participation in a similar international event days later as a "disgrace" because Canada has admitted it cannot meet its Kyoto commitments. Note: Graham did not attack the government for failing to meet the commitments; he instead ridicules the government for having the political courage to admit this impossibility. The reason for our inability to meet our Kyoto commitment is simple enough - in 13 years of rule the Liberal government did nothing about the environment and our emissions rose 30-5%. Through it all the Libs kept up their 'Kyoto mantra' as if simply saying "Kyoto" repeatedly would clear up the environment on its own, they poured millions into ineffectual "programmes" and occasionally they lashed out at foreign governments with better environmental records than we have (hey, it was an election year!). The Fossil Award that Ambrose was recently awarded by environmental activists? The last Canadian to be awarded it, and far more deserving, was then-Liberal Minister responsible for the environment and current leadership candidate, Stéphane Dion. The buck is a great thing with Liberals - it never, ever stops with them. Apparently, Evil Steve and his 'less-than-a-year-in-office' are actually to blame for the last decade of our baleful environmental record. Furthermore, Harper's plan to meet with Jack Layton of the NDP to discuss how the Clean Air bill can be improved to meet NDP concerns has been roundly denounced by

none other than Bill Graham. Are the Liberals worried about the environment or their polling numbers? Silly question.

### Gun control

Of all the policies endorsed by the present government, it is in this field and the field of same-sex marriage where the 'official party line' and I part ways. However, some response has to be offered to those who attempt to use this issue to make cheap political grist. The Tories want to ensure that people who use handguns in crimes receive tougher sentences. The Tories do not think that making farmers register hunting rifles (long guns) helps crack down on street violence. The element of the gun registry that the Tories wish to undo applies to certain "long guns". However, Montreal has itself witnessed two terrible incidents involving rifles, at the Polytechnique and at Dawson. If the registry worked I would support it. The semi-automatic rifle used by the Dawson shooter was legally registered. Our national gun policy is in need of serious review. Weapons used in crimes must be targeted more efficiently and money should not be wasted harassing law-abiding citizens in rural communities.

### Afghanistan

Prof Tetley argues the government should reverse course on this policy too. It was the previous Liberal government that committed Canadian troops to the area. Parliament has since voted on the issue and endorsed the government's position. The usual cabal is arrayed in Parliament against Canadian involvement. It includes self-ag-

grandising Liberals who see a way to hurt the government and NDPers who see an opportunity to embarrass the 'old gang' of both parties. Would the opposition rather see the Afghan people languish under tyrants than see Canada, NATO and the 'evil Yankees' actually do some good; would they rather see the West retreat in disarray then see peace gradually take root in a troubled land? Forty-two Canadian men and women have given their lives instilling important values in a foreign country, attempting to spread the benefits of peace, freedom and equality. Paternalistic? Spreading culturally subjective values? Perhaps. Without the garisons of NATO soldiers, who will prevent the infrastructure being invested in the war-torn nation from being destroyed by sectarian violence? Who will prevent the arrest or even execution of the women who have dared to take jobs or who have raised their voices against oppression during the "occupation"? The lot of Afghani women is still a terrible one - how much more terrible once we retreat? What will happen to all the "collaborators" (the parliamentarians, civil servants, village headmen, teachers, interpreters, police and soldiers) who took us at our word when we told them that NATO was going to do whatever was required in order to establish and maintain a democracy in Afghanistan?

Retreat would be selfish. Staying 'over there' is the right thing for Canada to do. For this reason it is with considerable pride that I have watched our PM make his convictions on this subject so clearly known. More

recently we have witnessed the opposition take Harper to task for pressing Chinese officials about human rights violations. The Liberals suggested it would be bad for business. Harper, the cynical neo-con and oil-patch baron, persisted and won a meeting with the Chinese premier that our media had briefly insisted would never happen because of Harper's stance. Throughout the trade mission Harper continued to push his rights agenda and pled the case of a Canadian citizen allegedly unjustly detained by the Chinese. Let the Liberals and the NDP play politics, it is principle that now guides Canada's foreign policy.

Should the government reverse course on all these issues as Prof Tetley suggests? No. The way is forward.■

## LAW JOKE CORNER

Q: What is the most difficult trick for a tax lawyer to teach her dog?

A: Rollover!

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Q: How do lawyers prefer their steak?

A: Legal tender!



# Verdi and Same-Sex Marriage

by Albert Chen (Law III)

In Verdi's *La Traviata*, our heroine Violetta is a courtesan who revels in the freedom of living from one pleasure to the next. However, at the party she throws to celebrate her return to health after an episode of consumption, Alfredo Germont declares his love for her and she finally dares imagine a life in love. They live an idyllic life together in the Parisian countryside for a few months before Alfredo's father appeals to Violetta to abandon Alfredo because her reputation as a courtesan threatens not only Alfredo's future, but also that of Alfredo's sister. If Violetta stays with Alfredo, Alfredo's sister's engagement will be broken off by the groom's family. The elder Germont tells Violetta that Alfredo will tire of her when her youth and beauty have faded, especially since their union will not have been blessed by God. Against her desire and in order to protect the elder Germont's children, Violetta agrees to leave Alfredo using the pretence of wanting to go back to her former, wild existence.

At intermission I downed a quick espresso at Van Houttes, and reflected on how I empathise with Violetta and her plight. Although never in such a fabulous setting as the world of French barons and Parisian salons, I've had my share of dissolute living. Love did strike once in a rare while, but in general relationships were casual and I shied away from com-

mitment. I became a relational nihilist because there didn't seem to be a point; because I am gay I would never marry or have children. In an era before same-sex marriage, I didn't believe I deserved a relationship and so why bother putting much effort into one?

I didn't press the point since as a young person it was seductive living from pleasure to pleasure. It was easier to characterize marriage as a dysfunctional patriarchal institution made vestigial by modernity than to fight for access to it. Like the elder Germont, those against same-sex marriage use their "pure as an angel" children to justify the non-recognition of socially tolerated, but not institutionally accepted outsiders. Like Violetta, I sacrificed my happiness for what I was told was the greater good and social stability, which sounds more like the philosophy of communist China than the laissez-faire individualism of North America. Subconsciously I had come to fear the unspoken accusation that being queer was somehow detrimental to children - an idea based on a belief that being queer is alterable and that queers can only survive through converting children - sort of like law firm recruitment, except with fewer fantastic free dinners and lower attrition rates.

Indeed, it wasn't until last month when I sat on a plane to New York and realized I would lose the right

to marry another man once I landed, that the importance of same-sex marriage came sharply into focus. My change of heart regarding same-sex marriage began during the 2004 federal election when my father declared that he would not vote for the Conservative party because of their position against same-sex marriage. Implicit in his support of same-sex marriage, I sensed that my parents were thinking like most parents, 'whatever it takes to settle my child down.' As parents, they believe same-sex marriage is in the best interests of their child.

In New York, I had dinner with my two younger cousins for whom I served as a mentor as they were growing up. I had played video games with them, read over their college application essays, and gave advice on problems they were having. Listening to them talk about college life and noticing how much they've come into their own as young adults made me realize how much I had enjoyed my experiences as older cousin, special needs camp counsellor and teacher. No doubt without much of the frustrations of parenthood, these roles nevertheless were fulfilling in much the same way. While women are assumed by society to have a nurturing maternal instinct, for me the less-documented nurturing paternal instinct was kicking in.

I don't know whether same-sex parenting is good or

bad for children, whether same-sex marriage will serve to deprive more children of their genetic heritage, whether there are negative consequences of this, and whether these would outweigh the positive contributions made by same-sex parents. Frankly, nobody really knows for sure because sociological studies and biological theories are inconclusive. In the end you have to rely on the values you were taught, mythologies and all, and your own experience of life.

In today's society, we knowingly entrust our children to queer teachers, our money to queer financial advisors, our hair to queer hairstylists, our lives to queer police officers and our legal disputes to queer lawyers. I have friends in my generation who were raised by same-sex parents and who are well-adjusted individuals, some of them law and graduate students even. Same-sex parents have been a fact for decades; the law is only playing catch-up. Based on such experiences, it is increasingly difficult to stereotype the queer community and to justify not granting the same rights. Ask yourself whether you believe your queer friends, family and colleagues would be as good parents as the average parent. Everything I know about myself tells me that I would have just as good a shot at raising half-decent kids who don't steal or pick their noses.

Finally, I've reached the age where the count-down has



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begun and every summer more of my friends take that walk down the aisle. Sooner than I would like, I imagine myself at dinner parties as a single Bridget Jones surrounded by smug couples. A few years after that, I'll be the bachelor uncle everybody likes because he's cooler than the parents. If I'm lucky, I'll be the bachelor uncle with a special friend. As I grow older, I grow farther from the hyper-idealized beauty that is prevalent in the gay community. Since "the hearts of men are changeable" as the elder Germont sings, I am fearful that without the sanction of man or heaven, my relationships will dissolve and I will grow old alone. I fear I'll only have two cats to comfort as surrogate children and the guilty schadenfreude I'll feel when I see my friends' wedding bands get retired in divorce.

Some would still argue that this is a sacrifice that must be made and to ask for more is selfish. They would say that I don't deserve as much as everyone else - the opportunity to grow old and ugly with someone I respect and love, to have children so that I can teach them about the world and so that one day they will make pos-

itive contributions to society, to have my relationship recognized as worth as much as everybody else's. In the era of *La Traviata*, Violetta's role as courtesan highlights how marriage was not a vehicle for romantic love and commitment, but rather an institution to gain wealth and power. The elder Germont is not looking out for the best interests of his children so much as wanting to use his daughter's marriage to cement alliances or his son's reputation to guarantee his future pension in old age. And like Violetta, queer men and women have often accepted this sacrifice since they had no choice. Many of these now find themselves without family, or with families they constructed on a lie they were forced to tell. Certainly, there are shining examples of queer couples who have been in committed relationships for many decades, testaments to how unnecessary the institution of marriage is in establishing and maintaining such intimacy.

Yet two considerations limit the applicability of this argument. First, for every example of queer couples who are in long term committed relationships, there are many more people who were discouraged from even

trying because they would not have social recognition of that commitment, nor the social support needed to make that relationship work. Second, marriage is ultimately about making a choice about how and with whom we want to live our lives. Depriving that choice to certain individuals undermines the freedom we have to pursue personal our own happiness and fulfillment, as we individually define it to involve marriage or not.

With caffeine coursing through my veins, I went back into the Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier. There was a full house in front of the austere set of *Opera de Montreal's* shoe-string production. *La Traviata* is one of those money-making crowd-pleasers that opera companies put on when they need an injection of fast cash. In Act Three, Alfredo, believing that Violetta has abandoned him for a new lover throws the cash he won gambling ("unlucky in love, lucky in gaming") at her in payment for her services. What follows is one of the most exciting choruses in opera and then a soulful trio where the elder Germont chastises a repenting Alfredo for the infamy he's caused a lady, all the while Violetta expresses her con-

flicted desire to both love and to protect Alfredo. The final act has a dying Violetta reuniting with Alfredo, and the elder Germont realizing his error in keeping them apart. On her deathbed, I enjoy the irony of Violetta singing her lungs out while in the final throes of a pulmonary disease, and in this production, she dies standing reaching for the light - a symbol of the tragedy of frustrated romantic love.

Five years ago, I had career and academic goals that guided my choices, but my romantic life was depressingly rudderless. I would never have imagined myself today setting goals such as getting married or raising children. While I don't know whether these will come about or not, by setting goals I've also set higher standards for my relational life. It's made me seriously question whether I will stay abroad in a jurisdiction that does not recognize same-sex marriage or if I'll come back to Canada. If I'm lucky in love, perhaps being unlucky at gaming isn't so bad - but that's another opera.

My father and I did, however, vote Conservative in the last election for various other reasons. ■





# Matt Blimes and Steven Shawyer: Thanks for (Finally) Launching the Lounge!

by Andrés Drew (Law IV), Michael Hazan (Alumnus) and Kara Morris (LSA President)

This Wednesday November 29th, the new renovated student lounge will officially be launched. Remember the fundraising slogan two years ago: "Launch the Lounge", well its time has finally come! This has been no small feat. Renovating the basement area was an idea thrown around for at least a decade. Countless Law Deans and LSA Executives talked the talk, but never walked the walk, so to speak. Much energy and money was spent designing architectural and fundraising plans. The opening of the student lounge is certainly the result of a collective student, alumni and faculty effort, but two individuals in particular deserve the most recognition for their tireless efforts: Matthew Bilmes (B.C.L.-LL.B. 2007 and lounge coordinator) and Steven Shayer (lounge designer).

The criticism surrounding the delays of the lounge project needs to be put in perspective. Two years ago, the 2004-05 LSA executive under the leadership of then President Michael Hazan, (for whom Matt Bilmes was V.P. Athletics) brainstormed the idea of renovating the basement lounge and discussions began with Faculty administrators on the feasibility of this project. Archives were opened only to find architectural plans

from the 1990's which showed the lack of regard paid by previous LSA Executives to the project. Beginning in 2004, money was specifically earmarked by the LSA for the lounge project. As is common, long-term projects need to be followed closely by the LSA, and Executive members often have more pressing concerns, but by the spring of 2005, the project was delegated to Matt Bilmes and Liat Tzoubari (then V.P. Clubs and Services). Over the spring and summer of 2005, Liat and Matt contacted McGill architecture students who designed preliminary renovation plans. Costs on one estimate exceeded \$100,000 and needless to say, the project had to be reassessed. In the meantime, the original architecture students graduated, so the LSA was more or less back to square one with regards to a final design.

When Andrés Drew was LSA President, he was committed to making the Lounge Project happen. At this point, Liat Tzoubari was studying in Israel so she "virtually" contributed to moving the project ahead. Knowing that in practical terms, the LSA's administrative tasks would not permit them to devote the required energy to the Lounge project, Andrés asked Matt Bilmes to continue as

Lounge Coordinator despite his obligations to the LSA having now expired. Matt unconditionally agreed. The plan was to bring the costs down to a more reasonable amount and commission new architectural plans to demonstrate to the Faculty that the LSA was serious. Andrés' role was to convince the Faculty to pay for half the lounge project and convince the LSA to pay for the other half. Matt's role was to get new plans, lower costs and oversee construction. An agreement between the Faculty and the LSA on the lounge project was achieved during the spring of 2006. Dean Kasirer and the Faculty's alumni development officers (Michael Cantwell and Micheline Sénia in particular) were instrumental in making the financing and recognition of alumni possible. They too are deserving of our gratitude. This is more or less where Andrés' role in the Project ended and the real efforts of Matt Bilmes and Steven Shayer began.

As usual in renovation projects, cost estimates need to be taken with a grain of salt. In mid-May, when Matt and Andrés were working full-time, the final estimate destined for tendering was \$20,000 over budget. Matt had two options: find an additional \$20,000 or go back to the drawing-board. This is where Steven Shayer

came in to save the day, offering his services at a nominal fee and more or less redesigning the entire lounge to come within budget and go to tender before Quebec's famous summer construction holidays. Andrés specifically remembers throughout the summer, hearing about meetings (which have extended until a couple of weeks ago) where Matt and Steven worked and stressed over costs and design plans. It is worth mentioning that Margaret Baratta, the Faculty's administrative officer, was very patient and supportive during this entire process.

At this point Matt, as lounge coordinator had to deal with a new LSA Executive, who, while supportive of the lounge project, also had many things to learn about their own duties. To continue to stay within budget, while offering superior amenities to students, Matt and Steven suggested targeted sponsorship to the new LSA VP Public Relations, Claude Lévesque, to secure the flat screen TV and four new microwaves. The dynamic-duo also envisioned the rotating "exhibit" of new artists' work on the walls of the lounge, and put us in contact with the Concordia Fine Arts Students' Association to make this happen. Overall, Matt and Steven contributed a contin-



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uous vision to the project, not willing to compromise on quality, and carrying the task through to the end. For that, we should thank them both!

It is our understanding the Fall delays were a function of contracting issues, and

minimizing costs while maximizing value (in terms of amenities and aesthetic design). This delay is a small sacrifice to pay, for having such a beautiful and functional space. Criticisms over the delays should be put into context because both Matt and Steven have de-

voted themselves wholeheartedly to making this lounge a fantastic student space for years to come. We are lucky to have been blessed with their connection to the Faculty.

Dealing with a large bureaucracy as well as performing

work in a building that is over 100 years old is never easy. The LSA appreciates your patience throughout this entire process and would like for you to join us at the official launch this Wednesday at 1:00pm. ■

# Choose Your Own Adventure - Insights on the Job Search from Those on Their Way Out

by Naomi Kikoler (Law IV)

**A**s a child I was a big fan of reading 'Choose Your Own Adventure' books. I loved the idea that at the end of each chapter you could guide your own future - but only to a degree as you were always limited to two or three options.

Ironically over the course of my law degree I have at times felt as though I am in a Choose Your Own Adventure story. When I entered McGill I knew that I was interested in doing social justice work on graduating. In reality jobs was not really something that I thought much about. Over the course of my degree I realized that I was a little clueless in that I had no idea what the Bar articling requirements were all about. On a related note, I also did not realize how challenging it would be to find a position on graduating that would reflect my interests and where I would actually get paid to article. Many of my fellow law students, with their varied interests in business,

entertainment, social justice, health, government policy etc. were also engaging in similar reflections about what their immediate post-law school career would look like.

Somehow options that seemed varied at the outset began to appear more limited and thus began to resemble a Choose Your Own Adventure where your articling options were limited to a) Large firm recruitment b) Clerkship c) Justice — the ABC's of post-McGill articling.

Those options are what many students are looking for, the only thing is that they do not speak to everyone's interests and for those who are looking for alternatives it can often be difficult to figure out how to pursue them. Over the last couple of weeks I have been speaking to graduating students about the type of non-ABC work that they will be doing upon graduating. My hope is that in giving students concrete examples

of others who are doing something different, and by providing job search advice, some of you will not experience the same amount of anxiety about finding a job that many of us felt.

I also just want to reassure students in 1st and 2nd year that there are a million and one opportunities out there for you, just have to find them and have trust in your own abilities. Do not let concerns over grades prevent you from going after what you want to do on graduating. I know of numerous instances where people with averages below a B got jobs at big firms in Montreal and Toronto (ie. They had C's and D's on their transcript), with international organizations and found other exciting careers — so do not let grades hold you back. Similarly do not let external pressures about what "you should do" define what your job possibilities are. What you decide to do on graduating will not place you on a path that you will be unable to escape from

(that also goes for people who feel that they are reluctantly working at large firms) you can change your path in life, thanks in part to the reality that you will have a degree that allows you flexibility.

I think before starting it is important to say that finding your own position can be very time-consuming and frustrating. Especially when you are doing so without much institutional support. You need to be creative and tap into as many resources as possible.

Here are some tips for getting started:

1. Talk to friends and family to get ideas and to find possible contacts.
2. Talk to recent grads.

Grads last year started their own legal collective, went to work for Quebec Legal Aid, worked for immigration lawyers, worked for the UN, became sole practitioners, found positions with crimi-



nal defense lawyers etc.

3. Talk to the Alumni Office - they have a database of people working around the world.

4. Talk to your professors - many have worked in business, for Int. Organizations, NGO's etc.

5. Cold Calling/emailing - Contact lawyers and others working in your field - hard to do but often essential and most people are willing to help.

6. Attend relevant conferences and events:

7. McGill Public Interests Careers Day.

8. University of Toronto Public Interest Law Careers Day - very useful and many McGill students go to it every March.

9. Osgoode hosts a Human Rights conference each year that includes a Public Interest Careers fair.

10. Canadian Bar Association events or other events for ex. sole practitioners, those working in Family law, or Criminal law etc - check websites.

11. Look at guides created by the CDO and those from other universities that are often posted online.

12. Osgoode has a very good career site dedicated to public interest careers: [http://www.yorku.ca/osgoode/careers/career-stages\\_socialjustice.htm](http://www.yorku.ca/osgoode/careers/career-stages_socialjustice.htm)

13. The University of Ottawa also has a useful site at [www.commonlaw.uottawa.ca](http://www.commonlaw.uottawa.ca) under "social justice" on the left side of the

homepage.

14. The University of Toronto also have a useful Public Interest Careers site [http://www.law.utoronto.ca/students\\_content.asp?item-Path=2/10/7/0/0&contentId=186&cType=webpages](http://www.law.utoronto.ca/students_content.asp?item-Path=2/10/7/0/0&contentId=186&cType=webpages)

15. Columbia University

They Are Off and Away - What This Year's Grads are Thinking of Doing:

Please feel free to contact the people whose names are mentioned below, they want to share their insights and help you! Thank you to each of the students who shared with me their experiences.

Law Foundation of Ontario Public Interest Articling Fellowships

For the last two years the Law Foundation of Ontario with the assistance of Pro Bono Canada has provided 5 organizations (Amnesty International Canada, Lake Ontario Waterkeeper, the Barbara Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre and the Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic) with funding to cover the salary and bar fees of an articling student. The positions are open to all students across Canada and are posted in May or June, keep checking the website [www.lawfoundation-on.org](http://www.lawfoundation-on.org) and the CDO website for more application information. Last year a McGill student was awarded a fellowship to work at CIP-PIC. Next year Katie Tucker will be working at Lake Ontario Waterkeeper and I will be working at Amnesty International doing work on

Canada's Immigration and Refugee law and policy as recipients of the fellowship. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us. There is a notice on the Law Foundation's website stating that they have received funding for one more position so for those of you who are looking for an articling position starting in September, keep checking their website.

Boutique and Mid-Sized Firms Around the Country

Laura Buckingham is going to be completing her Alberta bar requirements through working for a mid-sized Calgary law firm. She has a number of suggestions and insights for people interested in pursuing a similar position outside of Toronto/Montreal. In both Vancouver and Calgary firms tend to hire more articling students than they do summer students (in many cases small firms do not hire summer students) so if you did not get a position for the summer through East/West recruitment do not rule out the possibility that you will get an articling position. A lot of the small and mid-sized firms outside of Montreal and Toronto do not advertise through the CDO so useful resources to find smaller firms including looking at material created by law schools from the region you are interested in. A booklet that Alberta law schools put together on job opportunities is available in the CPO. The phone book, talking to people in your city of choice, and Google are also useful. Also keep in mind that the requirement period varies based on what province and city you are applying to work in - for

Calgary articling requirement happens in June and for Vancouver it is August.

Regarding timing and articling positions: positions come up at different times of the year. My position at Amnesty was posted in June, a good 8 months after most students had secured their articling position. A fellow student found her articling position with the Crown Prosecutor's office in Toronto during the summer as well. Keep checking the various Bar websites for job postings throughout the year. Ontario's Law Society has some interesting posting, [www.lsuc.on.ca](http://www.lsuc.on.ca) The CDO also publishes in the summer a list of large firms recruiting articling students for positions starting in September. So again, there are going to be options out there for a variety of jobs at different times of the year so do not lose faith!

Regarding Bar requirements: McGill Students have been creative about how they fulfill their requirements. One student will be articling with a boutique tax firm based in Quebec but he will be fulfilling his articling requirements the Ontario Bar because of the nature of his work. Other students have taken the opportunity provided by the Ontario and Quebec Bar to do part of their articling period overseas - in Ontario you can do 6 of your 10 months overseas working with a lawyer in various contexts. You can also create your own articling placement as is mentioned below. Check the Law Society websites for more information on what the requirements for articling are.

United Nations and Interna-



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### tional Organizations

Two graduating students are in the process of applying to the UN to work for the Legal Affairs division and the Conflict Resolution division, both in New York. For those interested in positions with the UN there are competitive Junior Professional Officers Program positions available for recent grads through the Canadian Government for jobs at various UN bodies like UNICEF and UNDP. More information is available at [www.acdi-cida.gc.ca](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca). Job postings appear on the various UN websites although many ask for previous work experience in the field. Relief Web posts vacancies for not just the UN but for most international organizations at this website [www.reliefwebt.in](http://www.reliefwebt.in). The postings are for positions around the world, and many are for individuals with law degrees. The World Bank also offers a Junior Professional Associates program and specifically recruits law grads [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org). Many grads also go on to do internships with the UN on graduating in the hopes that this leads to a later job as was the case for Heidi Smith.

Sheila Paylan is taking a route that many interested in this type of work contemplate - she is going to write the New York Bar and then head to Europe, likely the Hague in search of work ... that is after she finishes her post-Bar exam bicycle trip of Quebec and Labrador! Writing the New York Bar is one option that many students interested in public interest law consider doing as it gives them legal credentials without requiring an articling term. For those

interested in working in the US [www.pslawnet.org](http://www.pslawnet.org) is a good option, [www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org) is good for positions around the world.

### Foreign Service, Government Policy and In-House Council on Policy Issues

McGill students also go on to work for the government in divisions other than Justice, and often in a non-legal capacity. One student is currently preparing to write the Foreign Service exam, which has its next sitting in January, for more information visit [www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/departement/service/apply-en.asp](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/departement/service/apply-en.asp)

Lainy Destin has been looking into policy related positions. She has been exploring various opportunities to work in the telecom industry with a specific interest in working in various corporations Corporate Social Responsibility Departments. In addition she has also been applying to positions with the Federal Government, Government of Ontario, and the City of Montreal to do policy work on policy and legal issues pertaining to government initiatives regarding the environment and climate change. Another student mentioned that regulatory bodies like the Canadian Medical Association and the various Law Societies also offer articling positions and policy related work.

Keep in mind that you can also establish your own articling position so long as you have found a lawyer willing to act as your principle and you have developed an education plan that has been accepted by the law society. A friend of mine who graduated from Western con-

tacted an MP in Ottawa who was the former Justice critic and managed to create an articling position whereby he got to work with the MP and thus fuse law and politics ... being creative can allow you to do some very exciting work!

### Social Justice Firms and Positions

Students who are interested in doing social justice work often find themselves at a loss when it comes to thinking about what they are going to do post-law school. While many of us aspire to work in this area the reality is that finding paid articling positions that allow us to do this is difficult and finding out about available positions is an uphill struggle. As with all of the previously mentioned areas that people want to work in, the process will not be as easy as applying to a large firm where the CDO leads you through the process and the firms actually come to recruit you. The same can be said for Clerkships and Justice.

You will have to do a lot of leg-work and will on a regular basis be confronted with the reality that many organizations are unable to pay for articling students and for those positions that are available there is a lot of competition. For those interested in legal aid work in Ontario getting hands-on experience through clinics is essential. Most Ontario schools, especially those in Toronto, are affiliated with community legal clinics where because of the different Law Society rules, they are able to do more varied and involved work than we do in Quebec. Therefore students applying to those positions from Toronto

schools have more relevant experience and may already be familiar with the work of the clinic. I do not want to scare you away from seeking this type of work. I just want to make you aware of some of the challenges that those of interested in this type of work have faced and encourage you to volunteer at clinics during your degree. Students have gone on to work for both Legal Aid in Quebec and Ontario, and one of the representatives of Legal Aid Ontario at last year's Public Interest Careers day was a McGill grad.

As has been mentioned there are ways to do public interest articling and be paid for it. The Law Foundation of Ontario's Fellowship is one such way. Another is through working for smaller social justice firms. Our own, and UofT's Public Interest Career's Day is a great place to find out about some of those firms. Another trick that I used was to take a look at the various firms involved in Supreme Court Litigation that I found interesting and then look at the firm's website. Osgoode's and the University of Ottawa's website also lists Ontario social justice firms and sole practitioners. Labour-side law firms, family law practices, disability-law practices and many others, also provide opportunities for students to article and work in the area of social justice.

Karin Baqi will be articling with an Immigration and Refugee lawyer and will be hopefully starting her term in January, instead of June—the Bar requirements on things like start dates can be flexible. She took every opportunity to talk to



lawyers and articling students and through her patience and persistence found a fantastic position. Finding articling positions with smaller firms and sole practitioners requires a big time investment and a willingness to put yourself out there, contact people, and to keep following every lead. It also may realistically require you accepting a lower paying job than your colleagues working elsewhere. At many other schools in Quebec and Ontario the norm is not for all students to graduate with a paid articling position already assured. Many find their positions while articling - as was the case with one of McGill's top students last year who found a criminal law position while preparing for the bar. Others accept low pay or finance in part their own articling terms. Again for those who might now be worried, there are paid opportunities out there, you just need to find OR make them yourself!!

#### Keeping an Open Mind and Spirit

The possibilities out there are endless you just need to keep an open mind and an

open spirit. McGill grads go on to do many interesting things after graduating. The ABC's are popular but people also go on to graduate school, to work for the government, to work in entertainment, become doctors, journalists, and notaries (all things that students in this year's graduating class is planning on doing). If you came to McGill with a desire to work in a certain field then go after that. I fretted for years about what I was going to do. Last summer I was convinced that I would be spending a year working/volunteering in East Africa and had been looking into consultancy positions ... but my dream articling position became a reality and after I stopped worrying that I maybe was not qualified and my grades were not amazing I went after it as so many of the other students that I mentioned in this article have done and everything worked out. Be creative with your life, trust your abilities, and keep an open mind and spirit when it comes to finding a position.

Also keep in mind that you do not always have to article right after graduating.

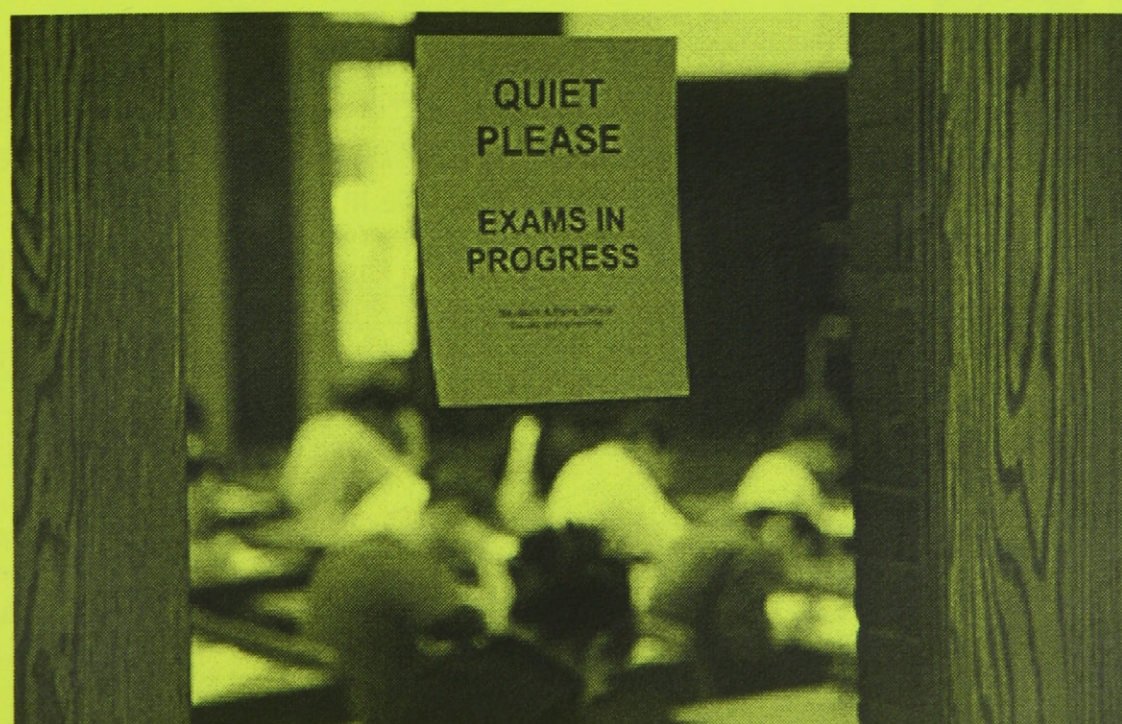
You can take time to pursue different interests and you also do not have to article. If practicing law is not for you then there are numerous other avenues that you can pursue. Mike Smith is thinking about spending his next year working on the Board of Directors of a local NGO, spending a couple of months in Malawi volunteering, working on an entertainment venture that he has been involved in, and helping a friend with a new store that they have opened.

I guess the point of this article is to just remind those of you who are interested in doing something other than the ABC's, or who after doing the ABC's want to switch tracks, that there are other opportunities out there. Your adventure was not selected for you and there are more than two or three options. Look beyond what seems to be the norm at law school and find your own opportunities. There are resources available to you, such as the people who were mentioned in this article.

The CDO has been making an effort to provide stu-

dents with more non-ABC advice and assistance, most notably they and not the HRWG will be organizing Public Interest Careers day from now on - Thank you. A common concern expressed by students interested in doing non-ABC work was the lack of institutional support they received from the Faculty and the CDO. I hope that in taking on responsibility for Public Interest Careers Day that reflects a general shift in the CDO's approach to finding non-ABC positions in general. Hopefully this will result in greater awareness of the type of positions available, the information regarding CV's, cover letters and interview skills needed, and tools and resources available for those interested in not just public interest positions but other sectors of employment and for jobs in different regions of Canada.

Thank you again to the many who shared their experiences (I only included the names of those who agreed to be publicly mentioned). And best wishes to everyone else!■





# Mcgill Law Human Rights Working Group

PRESENTS

## ANNUAL WRITING COMPETITION

The Human Rights Working Group is holding its second annual writing competition. Students are invited to compose up to 750 words on the topic of human rights in any genre (essay, short story, poetry, song etc.).

Submissions must be written in English or French. All entries must be submitted to the Law Students Association Office (in the basement of 3644 Peel Street) or to [words.and.images@hotmail.com](mailto:words.and.images@hotmail.com).

Deadline: January 15th 2007, 5:00 p.m.

Winners and runners up will be published in the Quid Novi, in the Journalists for Human Rights Speak! and on the HRWG website.

Entry forms are available on the HRWG website at: [www.hrwg.mcgill.ca](http://www.hrwg.mcgill.ca).

Participation is open to all McGill students.

## ANNUAL PHOTO EXHIBITION

Have you participated in a human rights-oriented volunteer project or internship? Here's a great opportunity for you to share your experiences. The Human Rights Working Group will be exhibiting a selection of photography from student human-rights internships during Canada's International Development Week, February 5th -9th, 2007.

If you have photographs that you feel capture your project and the organization you were working with, submit small-format copies, along with captions and a 200-word description of your volunteer experience, to the Law Students Association Office in the basement of 3644 Peel Street or to [words.and.images@hotmail.com](mailto:words.and.images@hotmail.com).

Deadline: January 15th 2007, 5:00 p.m.

Participation in the photo exhibit is open to all McGill law students.

Please submit your negatives or a CD with best possible quality images along with hard copies of your photos. Clearly indicate the corresponding negative or file number on the back of each photo. We will pay for enlargements from a selection of original images.

